

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: ANAN ON THAI/US RELATIONS AND THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE
IN THAILAND

THAI AMBASSADOR TOTHE UNITED STATES ANAN PANYARACHUN HELD
A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 16. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL
USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON THAI/US RELATIONS AND
THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND.

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS CHANGED
ITS POLICY ON SOUTHEAST ASIA. COULD YOU MAKE A STATEMENT
GIVING US FACTS ON THAT?

ANAN: I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION AND
YOUR STATMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS CHANGING OR HAS
CHANGED ITS POLICY ON SOUTHEAST ASIA AGAIN. AMERICAN
POLICY OR THE POLICY OF EVERY COUNTRY HAS TO BE REVISED
CONSTANTLY IN ORDER TO COORDINATE WITH THE FACTUAL SITUATION
EXISTING. THEREFORE. SHOUD FACTS CHANGE OR CIRCUM-
STANACES CHANGE IT IS NECESSARY FOR GOVERNMENTS REGARDLESS
WHETHER IT IS THAT OF THE UNITED STATES OR THAILAND, OR
ANY OTHER COUNTRY. TO REVISE THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICIES IN
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ORDER TO COORDINATE WITH THE FACTUAL SITUATION.

REPORTER: AT PRESENT, THAILAND IS CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO REVISE RELATIONS WHICH CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON MILITARY AFFAIRS IN THE PAST. TO CHANGE THEM TO ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO A GREATER EXTENT. WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?

ANAN: THAT IS A SUBJECT WHICH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION AND ON WHICH CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD THROUGHOUT. SOME TALKS HAVE BEEN STARTED WITH AMERICA ALREADY. BUT SO FAR AS I KNOW I FEEL THAT NO RESULTS IN EARNEST HAVE BEEN OBTAINED YET AT THIS STAGE, BECAUSE IT IS A SUBJECT WHICH IS STILL UNDER STUDY AND ON WHICH VIEWS ARE STILL BEING EXCHANGED.

REPORTER: INCREASED MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN MADE BY STUDENTS DURING VERY RECENT TIMES IN ORDER TO DEMAND THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND. WHAT REACTION HAS BEEN DISPLAYED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN REGARD THIS DEMAND?

ANAN: I FEEL THAT IT IS A GOOD SIGN THAT THAI STUDENTS ARE SHOWING GREATLY INCREASED INTEREST IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IN WORLD AFFAIRS NOW. IT IS ONLY VERY NATURAL FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE A HIGHER AND BETTER STANDARD OF EDUCATION TO FEEL INCREASE INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS AS WELL AS TO EXPRESS VIEWS AT THE SAME TIME.

HOWEVER, IT IS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE FOR PERSONS EXPRESSING VIEWS TO FEEL STRICTLY FAIR AND JUST AT HEART AND FOR THEIR VIEWS TO BE IN NATIONAL INTERESTS I FEEL CERTAIN THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MUST LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF STUDENTS AS THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS TO ALSO. BUT LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF STUDENTS DOES NOT MEAN THAT EVERY DEMAND MADE BY STUDENTS. OR EVERY VIEW THEY EXPRESS MUST BE FOLLOWED. EXPLANATIONS MUST BE GIVEN AND VIEWS EXCHANGED. LIKE PERSONS WHO ARE FULLY ADULT. ANY VIEW EXPRESSED BY STUDENTS WHICH IS GOOD SHOULD BE ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT SHOULD THE LATTER UNCLASSIFIED

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FEEL THAT ANY VIEW EXPRESSED COULD NOT BE PUT IN PRACTICE, OR NO PRACTICAL RESULTS WOULD BE OBTAINED OR THAT IT WOULD NOT HELP PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF THAILAND. THEN THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD GIVE EXPLANATIONS IN FULL DETAIL TO STUDENTS.

IN REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES IT IS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD

THROUGHOUT BETWEEN THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, RESULTING IN THE LATTER WITHDRAWING SOME MILITARY NITS AND PLANES FROM THAILAND BY GRADUAL STAGES.

IT IS KNOWN ALREADY THAT THE MOST RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED STATES THAT BY THE END OF 1974. AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES REMAINING IN THAI BASES WILL TOTAL ABOUT 27,000 MEN ONLY, WHILE PLANES WILL BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES WILL BE STEADILY REDUCED AND WHEN THE DAY IS FINALLY REACHED WHEN THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA IS NORMAL I AM CERTAIN THAT NO AMERICAN BASE. NO AMERICAN MILITARY UNITS. - AND NO AMERICAN PLANE WILL BE LEFT IN THAILAND.

REPORTER:

REVERTING TO THE PROBLEM OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES, WHAT IS YOUR VIEW ON RELATIONS EXISTING AT PRESENT AND WHAT TRENDS SHOULD IT HAVE IN THE FUTURE?

ANAN: MY VIEW IS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE OR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS A GOVERNMENT WHICH LISTENS TO LOGICAL REASONS. THAT IT HAS NO DESIRE AT ALL TO DOMINATE THAILAND OR TO TURN THAILAND INTO AN AMERICAN COLONY. THEREFORE. ANY MATTER ON WHICH THE THAI GOVERNMENT OR THE THAI PEOPLE EXPRESS VIEWS, OR SHOULD THERE BE SOME MATTERS ON WHICH DEMANDS WANT TO BE MADE TO AMERICA, SHOULD NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD OR VIEWS EXCHANGED. EITHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT AMERICA WOULD LISTEN TO VIEWS EXPRESSED AND IT WOULD MOST PROBABLY PUT IN PRACTICE MATTERS AS WANTED BY THAILAND.

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